

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-10 are all the claims pending in the application. Claim 1 has been amended for purposes of clarity, and new claims 9 and 10 have been added. Support for amended claim 1 and new claims 9 and 10 can be found, for example, at page 7, lines 24 and page 10, lines 8-19 of the present specification.

Entry of the above amendments is respectfully requested.

Initially, Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 3-4 and 7 are allowed.

On page 3 of the Office Action, claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Welsh (GB 828 336).

In addition, on pages 4-5 of the Office Action, claim 1-2 and 5-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Welsh alone, or in view of Magara or Saito.

Further, on page 4 of the Office Action, claims 1-2 and 5-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Welsh, optionally in view of Magara or Saito, and further in view of Vignaud.

Moreover, on page 4 of the Office Action, claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Welsh as discussed above, optionally in view of Magara or Saito, Vignaud, and further in view of Koike.

Basically, the Examiner maintains her position that Welsh discloses an electrode formed from a compression molded powder that may be used with a metal and a liquid or paste medium containing carbonaceous carrier mediums of grease or mineral oil. Therefore, the Examiner asserts that when the electrode is used, metal, a powder

and a liquid having a carbon component are all present.

Applicants respectfully traverse the above rejections for the reason that Welsh, alone or in view of the cited references, does not teach or suggest the present invention.

Welsh discloses an electrode that may comprise a rod of metal-graphite compact, and at page 2, lines 24-26 states “such an electrode may comprise a rod of metal-graphite compact or a tube containing the powder.” Therefore, Welsh does not disclose an electrode of compression molded mixture of metal powders and a working liquid.

The present invention relates to a green-compact electrode comprising a compression molded mixture of a metal powder and a working liquid having a carbon component. Since the present invention comprises a compression molded mixture whereas Welsh relates to a rod of metal-graphite compact, the electrode of the present invention is structurally different from the electrode of Welsh.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted Welsh does not teach or suggest an electrode comprising a compression molded mixture of a metal powder and a working liquid having a carbon component, using such electrode or compression-molding a mixed metal and a working liquid.

Therefore, Welsh fails to teach or suggest the present invention, and the secondary references do not make up for the deficiencies of Welsh.

Magara and Saito do not disclose an electrode containing a working fluid, although the use of a working fluid containing carbon is disclosed. Therefore, neither reference discloses an electrode formed of a compression molded mixture of metal

powder and a working fluid.

Even *assuming arguendo* that the use of the electrode of Welsh in a carbon-containing working fluid would produce an electrode with working fluid mixed therein via soaking, soaking of the working liquid would not provide an electrode formed of a compression molded mixture of metal powder and a working fluid.

In view of the above, withdrawal of the foregoing rejection is respectfully requested.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the §102 and §103 rejections are respectfully requested.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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